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CIVIL WAR DIARY OF HENRY B. SPARKS,

COMPANY C, 3RD INDIANA CAVALRY, 1864

[Owned in the 1960s by Arlington High School, Indianapolis]

[Copied in the 1960s for the collection of the Allen County Public Library
under the direction of Fred J. Reynolds]

Allen County Public Library
900 Webster Street
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No. 95

copy of the diary kept by Henry B. Sparks, co. "C", Third Indiana Cavalry

during the Civil War, 1864

Jan. 1 The is the beginning of this lettle memoranda. Oh, may its pure and unsullied pages as now never be stained with a record of evil deeds, but a memoir of brave deeds and actions that I may look over in after times, and try to make my life better every day. This day we marched from Culpepper to BealtonStation, a distance of some twenty miles, a cold dreary march. We walked a good part of the way.

Jan. 2 Today our brigade went to Warrenton (all except our regiment) and we came to our place and camped in an oak woods near Morrisonville. Very cold, but built big fires and slept comfortable. This march was made altogether on foot, leading our horses. We came about six miles to support Grant.

January 3. Have been making rolls for pay day at the house of Major Tait, a very accommodating woman, although a bitter enemy.

Jan 4 Finished up the rolls and sent them in. All correct. Spectnthe rest of the day fixing the tent to make it comfortable.

Jan. 5 Received orders to march and cavalry started for Warrenton. Arrived after a disagreeable time about nine o'clock and went into camp for the night with orders to march at seven in the morning. Got s letter from Jennie M.

Jan 6 Marched all day and arrived at our old Camp Culpepper about dusk. Quite cold and disagreeable. Found all our houses torn down and carried away by the infantry.

Jan 7 Went out on picket near Slaughter, Warrenton. Our company takes the center lot B. the left, and A and F the right. Not very hard duty, only six posts to this squadron

Jan 8. Nothing happened today. Not danger enough to make it interesting standing picket

Jan 9 Went out on the lines with Captain Martin. Came back and went rabbit hunting with Major Anderson. He got none; I got two.

Jan 10 Had rabbits and potatoes for breakfast. Went down and talked a while with the Misses Cooks - very intelligent ladies they are. Was relieved by the 8th New York. Came back to camp, put up tents, and went to bed. Jimmie Albro came back to this company from the battery.

January 11 Have worked very hard today trying to make a house, a poor affair when done. Got a letter from Mary today. So glad to hear from them. Put up my house and daubed it. Lieutenant Long went home day before yesterday. Now I long to get to bed. I am so very tired.

Jan. 12 Nothing of interest going on today. Was building my house all day. Very tired Got a letter from Mary.

Jan 13 All day have been working at the company books. Made out description and discharge of Anderxon. Was promoted to Sargeant and Kincaid and Marsh, Corporals. H.B.S. promoted to rank of Orderly Sargeant.

Jan. 14 Saddled at eight o'clock and came out here to the right of Cedar Mountain and relieved the 8th New York of picket and took our old stand.

Jan 15 Alarm out on the picket lines. Company "D" got orders to go out; all quiet again Corporal Craft of Company "B" was captured, some of Captain Strothers company, 4th Virginia Cavalry, but escaped with the loss of his arms.

January 16th Nothing of interest transpired today. Went on scout as far as James City. Saw nothing and returned. Went over to Mrs. Ross' and chatted awhile with Palmire Ross. Very fine girl.

Jan. 17 All quiet today. Was at home all day. News that the enemy are making some hostile movements. Went scouting with a guard of twelve men. I returned at dark.

Jan. 18 Was over to see Miss Palmyra Ross this morning. All quiet along the lines. Raining steakily since daybreak. Was relieved about two o'clock by a wquadron of 8th New York and a rrived in camp through a heavy rain and deep mud.

Jan 19th Tore down my chimney today and put it up to suit me. It was too deep. Not much trouble. Have now fixed quite comfortable. Northing doing today of interest.

Jan 20 Norhing going on today. The dull routine of camp life passes over without a riffle. and we reture to our dog tents, quietly to rest. Wrote letters to Annie and Sister Mary, through had to sit up quite late.

Jan 21 Went to Culpepper to the commissary. Tollerable cold day. Saw King Alcohol. Reigned Supreme. Oh, when will the evil be removed from the army. Returned; found men cleaning up camp. Extra man have to make stable tomorrow.

TAKEN PRISONER

Jan 27th On my way to Richmond. Was captured by Cap. Strathers' Co. 4th Virginia Cavalry took twelve of us. Went as far as Madison C.H. on horse and walked from there to Orange C. House. A long, wearisome journey for Cavalry men. Tried hard to escape on the way. Greenwood and myself very nearly succeeded.

Jan 28 Spent an almost sleepless night in a guard house. A dirty hole in Orange C. H. On our way to Richmond in a passenger car at Gordenins ville. Later near at Louisa C. H. Arrived at Richmond about seven o'clokk at night. Marched to Libby Prison. Were searched for money; did not find any. Were marched to Pemberton and put in here for the night.

Jan 29 Slept quite well last night. Better place here than I expected. Have drawn no grub yet and am very nungry. Have had nothing given us since we were captured. Later got some bean soup, beef, pickles and bread, this morning. I feel tolerable well now. Have been looking for Charlie Allen ever since have been here, but have not seen nor heard of him

Jan 30 Got along fine today. One hundred more prisoners came in from Danville, Quite crowded. Got a big dinner today

Jan 31 Were waked early this moring and marched to Belle Isle. Such a place as this is enough to kill the heartiest man alive. If our government only knew the suffering of our soldiers here, they would make some arrangements for an exchange.

Feb. 1 Slept very well last night on the wet sand, but done very well considering we had no tents nor anything for shelter. Misting rain all night. Tjis morning quite cool.

Feb. 6 Three hundred more prisoners came in this morning. There are perhaps 10,000 Yanks here now, about six hundred without temts or shelter of any kind. We drew salt pork this morning, the first we have had since we came here, but only got two loaves of bread for today. Great rumors of an exchange that somewhat raises the spirits of the discouraged soldier on this Island.

Feb 7 Nothing going on today of interest. Drew bean soup today. This afternoon the sun came out quite clear, although it threatened to storm all day. It is reported today that Kilpatrick

is within ~~25~~ 52 miles of this place on another great rain but I am afraid it is all a humbug, though the rebels are not in line of battle on the hills opposite there, but perhaps only in Grand Review as this is the Sabbath. Oh, may another Sabbath not pass onver till we are out of here.

Feb. 8 We hear rumors this morning that the flag of truce boat was up and that Jeff Davis had ~~[illegible]~~ given Con ress today to decide whether to recognize General Butler and ggree upon an exchange. I think if our government knew of the suffering here, they would agree to exchange anything for many of Uncle Sam's brave boys are literally starving here. Great rumors of Kilpatrick's doing here. He has_____ a~~itjprosed tjo-op, ½amu~~/authorized the company.

Feb. 9, 10, and 11 pages are illegible.

Feb 12 A prisoner attempted to steal a blanket from one of the guards today, when the guard drew up and shot after him, hitting three other men, one through the body, one through the groin, and one through the let. The first one died; the others were taken to the hospitsl. The man who stole the blanket was tied up and whipped soundly. Butler was accepted today. Great rejoicing.

Feb13 About three hundred Yanks came in the island this morning. One of Company "E" came with them from the hospital. Traked my new velvet pants for a pair of grey ones with a red st stripe down the legs. Got $25 to boot. Had a blanket stolen this morning b y one of my own mess. Had my fill of something to eat today for the first time.

Feb. 14 _____

Feb. 18 I haven't written for a few days because it was so bitter cold I could not. Yeaterday morning 200 were sent away from the Island; said they were going to Georgia but think they will be exchanged. This morning 400 more were sent away with the same work. Last night on island we almost froze. It was very cold and without much cover, with only three blankets to nine of us. ~~J~~ Hope we will get a tent today. Four hundred more came in. Elliot Driver was one of them.

Feb. 21 (Sunday) 275 prisoners left this morning for the city. Some say that they are getting a special parole in the city and are ~~goin~~ being sent to Yankedom. I would like to go whereever they are going. Oh, may we not have to spend another Sabbath on the Island. How much I should like to go to some church or Sabbath School today. The church bells of Richmond sound so familiar to me, seems as if I should be at home,

~~Feb~~. March ~~6~~ 5 I have not written to you now, my diary , for some time. I should not so have negected you. This is the fifth and I ~~last~~ lose the oysters that I had wagered on being off the Island by today. Kirkpatrick has again awakened the rebel capitol by a great raid. He came very near the city. Our regiment was with him. Will was here. Two of our men were taken prisoners and arrived on that night.

Henry Papt of Company "E" and Thomas Marsh of Company "B", they know nothing of an exchange. Kirkpatrick went to Butler's department, Penninsula.

March 6 Some six hundred more Yanks left camp this morning. I could have left but was afraid they were going to Georgia, but since then from what I hear that they were going to our lines, and if further opportunity offers, I think I will try it and trust to Providence for the result.

March 10 Some prisoners left this morning. Our squad came very near going. Rain and cold all day. Got some wood trom those squad s that went away and kept a good fire all day in the tent.

March 11 Yesterday 800 left the island. I ~~also~~ almost think they were going to our lines.

They began at the 56th swuad and took to the 46th. That is ours and if they take any more this end, ours will be the first squad to go. Some of the Indiana Third came in yesterday from the army of the Cumberland. I have not seen them but don't suppose that I know them.

March 12 At 9½ o'clock we were called upon to pack up and be ready to leqve and were marched to Richmond and put in Pemberton Prison on the second floor where we now are and still in the dark as to our destinationl.

March 13 Early this morning we were taken up to the third floor and they are taking the name and rank, company and regiment, of those left on the second floor. Called us down and took our names and are almost through with the rest. It is now almost one o'clock and have had no breakfast yet. Am getting very hungry. I very foolishly lost my blanket by coming down and leaving it in the upper room.

March 14 At two this morning we were taken aboard the cars for Georgia, provided with one loaf of bread.

March 15 Stopped in the woods four or five hours and are now in Raleigh N. Carolina, waiting for a train to pakk up very much crowded into box cars 60 to 65 in a car

March 16 Was on the cars all day. Last night we stopped for the nightl After daylight we did not get off the cars. Arrived at Charlotte, South Carolina.

March 17 Got off the cars last night and lay in the woods all night. Very cold. Bought wood of the guards for buttons and are quite comfortable Drew beef and crackers this morning. Appears as cool here as at Richmond.

March 19 Laid in camp last night. Very cold but had good fires. This morning were called in line at eight, and put aboard the cars on the Charlotte and S. Caroline R.R. where we noe are waiting for the locomotive. Morning bright and beautiful. Was in the cars all day. Ran very slow. Still in the cars at dark. Going to run all night to Columbia, S. Carolina. Most all out of rations and no prospect of drawing any very soom.

March 18 Still lay out all night. Passed quite comfortable. Had fires. In afternoon home guards from Charlotte came up and relieved the old guards all the afternoon. At eight in the evening the old guard came back. 600 more Yanks came in from Richmond and camped on the opposite side of the railfoad.

March 20 Sabbath morning has come to us and we are still aboard the cars. Passed the night very uncomfortably, so crowded in the car. Stooped near Columbia. Guards are drawing rations. It will take us some time to go the Americus, Ga. Arrived at Breatville at six in the morning. Guards relieved by S. Carolina troops but we did not change cars as we expected, nor draw rations but started on our way to Augusta, Ga. I am very hungry; have had nothing but raw corn.

March 21 Ran all night. Very cool. Arrived at Augusta, Ga about twoo'clock this morning where we still are at eight. Did not draw ration. Have been eight days from Richmond. Now on one corn dodger and 25 crackers. Two days and night we have had nothing at all, since we have had nothing but raw corn. Ran very fast all day. Will make the whold distance tonight.

March 22 Arrived at Andersonville about eleven o'clock. Rainy, cold, and disagreeable. We were kept standing out in the wood for an hour, almost perishing, when they marched us into our future camp, and divided off into squads. We fell to No. 58. Were then turned out like sheep to shift for ourselves. The wind blew very cold; rain fwll in abundance and but for the kindness of old camp in letting us to their fires, we would almost have perished.

March 23, Got wood to dry and make good fires. If we only had some kind of shelter, we could live very well. We drew a quart of meal a day and bacon every day. Oh, now delicious

a

a little bit of grease does taste to a man that has dad none for so very long. Charles Allen came over to live with me today. This is, I think, a very good camp if it was not divided into by a large _____/ There are 18 acres in it, enclosed by a stockade 20 feet high. Impossible to get over it.

March 26 (Saturday) Sun came out warm this morning, and we were called into line again, squaded off again. 90 men in a squad, 270 in a big squad. There is some talk of an exahange of the sick this morning and also of the prisoners in general. Got no rations today at all , because the new men were so long getting into line. I managed to trade a piece of soap for a pint of meal and some salt and thereby kept from being so hungry. Got no wood today either.

March 27 (Sunday) This is Easter Sunday and we have no eggs. Sun came out warm and pleasant this morning. We were called out early and kept standing until the roll of the whole company was called. Still no prospect of getting any rations. They seem determined to punish us till they get the rolls straightened up and the prisoners learn to fall in promptle. Did get rations but it was after/ after two or three o'clock before they were divided and we had begun to be very hungry.

March 28 Am hungry. It was warmer last night than it has been since we were on the Island. Island, I said; we are off that place now and I am very glad of it. Oh, dould I hear from home today, how happy I sho ld be. Clouded up and began to rain about one and still raining hard at dark; had to do all of our cooking in the rain. Got wet to the skin.

March 29 Am hungry. Last night we put up two blankets stretched like a tent that kept the rain off us, but we could not sleep any for cold and want of covering. It rained and pretty hard. 200 Yanks came in last night from Atlanta. They report an exchange going on. Were not kept long in line this morning but grub is a long time coming.

March 30 S Am hungry. Rumor says that 8,000 Rebel prisoners are on their way to Savannah to be exchanged. Don't believe i . Later that some major has gone from here to our command. Later that our Governmet has instructed General Wadsworth to inform the Rebel authorities thar there will be no exchange until they will exchange man for man, white or black; if that is so, we may expect to here for the war. If we could make some kind of sheltoer, we could get along very well.

March 31 Slept well last night, algjough cool. Sun came out warmer, but sky looks smoky. Some ladies came out in carriages to see the Yankee prisoners, accompanied by the Colonel, and several other officers. The officer of the day told the boys that they were not exchanging but were parolling. Went out today and got some poles for a tent and dug a hole. Am going to cover it with dirt and pine boughs. They make a very comfortable rancho.

April 1 This morning the squads on the opposite side of the swamp were not given any rations because they broke ranks before they were done calling the roll. Covered one side of the rancho. Went out in the evening with Charlie Allen and got a load of leaves to sleep on. Evening has closed around us. All quiet except those men that were cut out of rations on our meat took some of it.

April 2 Cold and dready. Did not have to stand in line logg. Covered the other side of our house today and made arrangements to cover the end. The whole camp got rations today - no raiding. Has been quite cool today. Traded salt beef for meal. Have plenty of bread and that is all I want.

April 3 This reminds me of Sabbath at home. It is so quiet; the sun shines so beautifully. Were called into line early and hey are taking our desceiption lists, for what object I cannot imagine. Tje like has never been done before. The Rebel Sargeant told us that there certainly was to be an exchange of parole, perhaps in two weeks, but it was certain to come God grant it may be soon. How many happy men would go out of here then.

April 4 (Monday) Got our rations very late yesterday. The old Cap. did not keep us in line only long enough to be counted. No News today. This morning there were 67 dead carried out, a larger number than has ever been carried out in one day yet.

April 5 A few more Yanks came in this morning. This evening a Yankee Free Mason was buried by members of the Order, both Yankee and Rebs, by their usual mode of burial. Aouthern papers of late date state that negotiations for an exchange have been favorable and that all the Rebel prisoners in our hands will be on their way within thiety days, and a Flag of Truce boat is expected up tomorrow with 1,000 prisoners.

April 6 Sun came up this morning. Don't feel very well. Am up at the gate waiting to go out after some wood. Poor chance. Did succeed though in getting a lead after a while. I feel much better since I have been after wood.

April 7 Rained quite hard last night, but we were comfortable enough in our rancho. Now much better it is to have some kind of a shelter than to lie out in the rain. The old Cap. did not keep us in line this morning, but dismissed us on calling the roll. No news of interest this morning.

April 8 Cool and cloudy - rained in the night. Gave me a cold. Ed Kelso is down sick with a cold and lying out don't help him any. Diarrhea and cold is the prevailing sickness here and some cases of smallpox and a curious disease that swells the feet and legs, but causes the afflicted no pain other than numbness. Were dismissed and no roll called this morning

April 9 Some new prisioner came in today, though they have been captured some time. Where they are from, I don't know. Two days' rations were issued today because the Quarter Master said he wanted the Sabbath to himself. Small rations though for two days. Was out for wood. The guard gave me some gouber peas.

April 10 There were no rations issued today as was expected. I went after wood in the afternoon. One or our mess went to the hospital with the smallpox. A good many ladies came to view the Yankee prisoners but did not make fun of us. Nine died last night on this side of camp.

April 11 Did not rest well last night. Had tooth ache. Got up before daylight and baked two ash pans of bread. Very sweet bread they make. Was out after wood again today. Feel very ill today.

April 12 Hot all day. Have been to the gate trying to get some poles but did not succeed. A Sergeant of squad was rode on a rail this evening for stealing two hams from his squad, and then bucked. No news from the exchange.

April 13 Well this is getting pretty well along in the month and we are still not out of Sumter. But the prospect growsbrighter every day. The papers of the 11th state that all Richmond and Danville prisoners ~~will~~ are exchanged and the old Belle Island prisoners will be in a few days. May it speedily come for many are dying off here. The above news was ~~confirmed~~ confirmed today.

April 14 Cool and cloudy this morning. Were kept in line. The old Cap. said there were some express boxes here for some of us today. How I wish I could get one but I don't reckon there is any one for me. No news of interest going the rounds of the camp today ~~.~~/

April 15 Today the paper of the 12th came into camp and it stated that there were three transports at Richmond waiting for the water to subside so they could land and take away Federal prisoners. The water in Richmond is over six ~~feet~~ feet deep in Cary Street and Libby Prison.

April 16 It rained last night and today is really cold. We got only a little wood in today and could get no way to ut it up. Got some hog haw leaves to see if they would not make greens, but they did not. Too bitter to taste well. We need some vegetables for there are many getting the scurvy.

April 17 DEAD LINE A new arrangement is going around the stockade. They draw a line about 20 feet from the wall and forbid any prisoner from coming within that line on penalty of death. The guard has a platform to walk on so they can see over the stockade. I saw the list of express boxes today. There was one for Charley Allen of our company.

April 19 Today is cole and raw. Was out after wood and got some maple leaves for screens. Made very good ones. Drew molasses and rice today in place of meat. A very agrecable change, for we drew splendid molasses. Six hundred prisoners came in today from Danville, That looke like there never was going to be an exchange at all.

April 20 I passes a very uncomfortable night because of the tooth ache. More prisoners came in this evening. They say they were sent here for an exchange, but it seems to me that if they were going to exchange or parole, they would not go to the expense or trouble of transporting them all the way down here, and back again into Center Point of Savannah.

April 21 There are no further news of an exchange as yet, though most undoubtedly have been made for one though. Why? Six hundred more came in this morning from Danville and six this evening. I baked some bread and went and traded them for soap. Now I will have a good wabh for I have been so black with pine smoke that will not come off without the use of soap in plenty.

April 22 Went to get a tooth pulled this morning. Doctor told me to come back tomorrow, but don't think I will. We did not get rations until very late and I was long after dark before I got it issued to my mess. We drew fresh beef, salt pork, and bacon, a little of each. Express boxes will be distributed on Sunday. There is a report in camp that 400 government guards have arrived from Savannah to take away prisoners Sunday to be exchanged.

April 25 (Monday) Today has been pleasant and agreeable. This evening rations came in very early and then they gave out the express boxes and unespectedly I got some things in a box with Chaflie Allen, from Aurora But no letter or papers.

April 26 Wrote home today and sent for a box of things. Don't know whether I will every receive them or not, but think I may afford to lose them if we are exchanged before that time. Got a lot of wood this morning from the swamp by wading in the water and fishing for it.

April 27 Today we are almost out of wood for our squad any yesterday some orders from the Commander of the camp. Westerday three prisoners captured the guard that went with them after wood and escaped with his gun. Prisoners try such things very ofter here but seltom escape for they run them with blood hounds and when they are captured, they are put back in here with a ball and chain on their legs.

April 28 All night we could hear the hounds on their track and today two others were caught and brought back. They got as far as Flint River, twelve miles from here. The other one made his excape. The hounds could not trank him at all. Washed a shart today for Charlie Allen. Waded in the swamp and got a good load of wood. Saw a big eel caught out of the swamp. Made a fine mess.

April 29 It rained last night. I had the tooth ache and did not sleep much. The night was rather warm. Sun came up bright this morning. The news is that Butler is to be at Savannah to take away prisoners by the fourth of May, in today's paper from Augusta, Ga. Tooth ache nearly all day.

April 30 (Saturday) Had my tooth pulled this morning. Didnot hurt much. Was also vaccinated but don't think it will take on me. Very warm today. This evening 500 prisoners came in who have been captured about two weeks at Plymouth, N. Carolina. They know nothing new in the way of exchange or parole.

May 1 (Sunday) Drew two days' rations today as usual. This being the____, the sun is very warm today. How glad I am to have a good shelter. This is the first of May and I suppose the usual May Day parties will come off at home tomorrow just as if we were not there, but then many a seeming gay countenance among friends will often think of us and wish that we could be happy

May 2 They don't how that we happy here in the thought it is all for home and country and notwithstanding our sufferings if we die we are resolved to die the death of a soldier. Charley went ouside this morning to stay. They planted artillery so as to sweep the camp today. That looks as if they expected an attack from outsidd.

May 3 Norhing of interest transpiring today. 600 more new prisoners came in today from Plymouth, N. Carolina. They are well provided for and have plenty of Greenbacks. It was very cold last night and we have no covering but an old overcoat. We lay cold all night.

May 4 They now have artillery pladed all around us. They think to cover us so much that we won't attempt any serious demonstrration. There are too many brave boys here to stay in the stockade guarded by a brigade of Rebels.

May 5 Last night many Yankd made their escape by digging out under the stockade. How many we do not inow yet. They have ordered us to stay in the stockade. line at roll call till they ascertain how many are gone on pain of being shot if we break ranks. They cannot ascertain how mahy left, but suppose about 80. They put a ball and chain on three men who dug the hole.

May 6 Yesterday they favored us with a little molassea and rice beside some meat. The Confederacy must be getting rich to feed us so much at onece. They have not yet caught any of the escaped men. Yesterday and today they have given us no wood at all. They say they are going to issue cooked rations. Rumor says Belle Isle prisoners are going to begin to leave tomorrow for exchange. All a fudge, I think, but will soon know for certain.

May 7 (Saturday) There were no prisoners left as reported this morning, but they say they are to go tomorrow. Still give us no wood. I gave a dollar this morning for the loan of an axe one hour and got some wood from the swamp. They issued us cooked meat, some meal though part got bread and meat both cooked.

May 8 Today is the Sabbath. The sun came up bright and warm. After today no citizen is allowed to travel on the R.R. For what reason is unkown. This morning's paper that our forces are leaving along City Point on the James River and are advancing on Richmond. I hope that will take the place. We drew Belle Isle rations today, only half a loaf to a man for one day. Wrote to Hallie Hully today.

May 9. Sent my letter off this morning. Will get wood this morning. It will be very acceptable. Would like to hear news of an exchange but none is stirring. Paper says there have been a battle on the Rapidan. Say they took 300 prisoners but does not know their own loss. Gen. Longstreet is wounded; General Jenkins killed. Drew bread and meat this morning and a little more than yesterday.

May 10 Nothing of interest today but a report that our government has demanded the prisoners of the Confederacy and that England and France signed it so the demand will have to be complied with.

May 11 (Wednesday) News from the Rapidan states the Rebs are whipping us bad but have lost many themselves and that our army is retreating.

May 12 (Thursday) Cornelius Hollenbeck of our regiment, Company "A", came in; he had escaped from the cars among the first squads that came from the Island. Arrived within eight miles of our lines and sad to relate was recaptured. Very cold for this time of year. Need fire such a day as this.

May 13 Some prisoners came in who were captured last Saturday this side of Dalton. They say Kilpatrick is making a raid this way, that our forces probably have Dalton and all the Confederates in it.

May 14 (Saturday) Here I am again, weary, weary of this laying around. Oh, 'tis a bitter thought that we will have to stay here during the war, but we hope for the better and may the day soon come when I can make a record of our leaving this pen for our own lines.

May 15 This is the Sabbath. A beautiful and bright day such as I would like to pass at home. Yesterday the citizens in the country gave a big picnic dinner to the Alabama Regiment that is going home to reorganize. Some of the Fourth Indiana Cavalry came in yesterday, captured near Dalton. Rumor says fifteen hundred leave here tomorrow.

May 16 (Monday) I found William Edward and Kent Douglas yesterday. They are Second Cavalry and from our county. A man with only one leg went across the dead line yesterday and was shot dead by the guard. Rumor says fifteen hundred are to leave today, that transports are lying at Savannah loaded with Rebel prisoners for exchange. Drew wood today.

May 17 (Tuesday) Sun came up bright and warm this morning. Bids fair for a very woam day. Cap. Wirtz told that our generals had made to exchange the Plymouth prisoners. I think that would be very unfair.

May 21 For three days I have had nothing to write. A few prisoners came in Tuesday from Dalton. Report the Rebels retreating toward Atlanta and our troops victorius in their onward march. The Rebel report that the exchange will be resumed but whether it will be general or not. Vainly I look for a letter from home, but still find myself to be disappointed every morning.

May 22 500 prisoners came in last night from Danville and report the Rebels are rapidly retreating toward Arlanta and our troops victorius in their onward march. With Petersburg in our possession and also Lynchburg, but don't think the latter place taken. This is Sabbath Morning. They are moving the hospital outside. T'will be much better for the sick. The weather is getting unmercifully hot now. They are enlarging the stoakade. A few more prisoners came in from Danville.

May 24 (Tuesday) Last evening 1000 came in from Danville from Grant's army on the Rapidan. They were captured on the fifth, sixth, and seventh. They say Richmond is being evacted. From present appearance Confederacy is just about played out.

May 26 (Thursday) I am very tired but feel much better than if I had not been at work. Tomorrow I will be more careful and not work so hard. I am very doubtful about this matter, whether it is right or not to work and are we not thereby aiding the Southern Confederacy. I will stay a few days and then go in though many of our officers tell us that we are doing no wrong, and only working for extra rations which we so much need.

May 27 Still out here and at work. I feel better today, but rather sore. The shingles are to cover a hospital for our own men and we certainly could not do anything that would be more benefit to them than to build a hospital for the thousands of sick. No news from the front . Today I have been a prisoner for four months.

May 28 Did not work hard today but made a good many shingles. 108 more came from Atlanta. Could not talk to them about anything. The paper says no fighting but some skirmishing in fromt. Also, the flag of truce boat came up with dispatches but don't state of what character they were.

May 29 Today is Sabbath and we rest as of old. Charlie and I went into the country and got a mess of eggs, the first I have had since I have been a prisoner. Yesterday we had chicken and warm biscuit. Oh, if I was home now, I would have no wich for such things, Some more prisoners came in today and last night. Reports of heavy fighting at Atlanta.

May 30 Went ot work again this morning but have decided that I will go back into the stockade tomorrow morning. No paper published yesterday, so cannot get any news today. 1500 Yanks came in and a woman with them that was captured at Plymouth, also some officer

May 31 This morning I bundled up and came into camp. I oncluded I could not work there with a clear conscience. If others can, let them. I cannot. I am of the opinion that some of them will pay dearly for working out there. I found Kelso had gone to the hospital and George Martin, too. George has the scurvy very bad, indeed.

June 1 Last night George Martin died of scurvy in the hospital. Have not heard from Kelso since he went. I had sick headache today and was very poorly. My feet swelled, too There are sumors afloat of exchange or parole. Well, the time must come and every day brings it nearer.

June 2 Still rumors of exchange. The Colonel says none of us will be here two months from now. I hope so at least. I was sick at the stomach today with violent headache, We draw rations of mush now every night and tolerably good rations of meat.

June 3 There is nothing stirring this morning. Last night it rained very hard. Made the camp a great deal cleaner and the air cooler. All the prisoners are uncer the impression that release from here is very near but we can have no settled views on the subject and will not know much of it when the exchange does come.

June 4 It was rumored that three thousand were going to be sent away yesterday but they did not go and now say they are going Monday. Think there will be no exchange until the spring campaign is ended. Isaac Lewis very sick with scurvy and rheumatism. How much I should like to get a letter.

June 7 (Tuesday) I am hungry._____Lewis is very bad with scurvy. I have begun to sell almost all my meat and buy vegetables with it so if possibly I can be rid of that disease

June 8 About 1400 Yanks came in last night from Richmond. They bring good news from our army. Grant is so close upon the city that firing is distinctly heard. I hope for the sake of the poor men of this camp he will soon take the place for then I think there will be an exchange. Men are dying now at the rate of 60 to 100 per day.

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June 10 (Friday). Rumor today that the Governors of all the states have agreed to keep their own prisoners of war if the government will have them paroled for during the war.

June 11. I am hungry. Nothing going on in camp. They have begun to give our squad meal again and let us go out for wood but make us give word of honor not to try to escape. The guard is not sufficient to prevent a Yank from escaping. Was out today and carried a big load of wood. The sun is quite hot and confines us to our tents to escape the burning heat.

June 15 (Wednesday). Last night Eli Kolso died out in the hospital. I don't know what was the matter with him. He only had the rheumatism in his legs when he went out. Isaac Lewis died June 13.

June 19. All passed off as usual. Rained very hard in the afternoon while I was after wood. Got a good load. Hunger, starvation, death, seems to be our lot, but we hope. Company "C", Second Indiana Cavalry, Second Brigade, Second Division, captured 27 near Sandtown, Georgia, by of Hood scouts.

June 27. Five months ago we were captured but we hope we will not have to stay six months more in the Rebel Confederacy but Byron says, "Hope deferred maketh the heart sick." I am afraid many hearts will be made sick. There is talk of exchange that they will begin the first of July. God grant it may be so. At one o'clock today Isaac Humphrey died of scurvy.

(This of later date but on some blank page)

August 1. I saw today that James Tinker died April 13 of scurvy. Regiment 117th Infantry, No. of grave 914.

July 1. One year ago today began the memorable battle of Gettysburg. A Court Martial has tried some of their raiders. It is sad if they are sentenced to be hung. Mort Higgins died this morning with scurvy. He passed away very suddenly about eleven o'clock. That leaves but seven of us, that were captured at the same time, and all died with scurvy.

July 2. Nothing going on except the new stockade is finished and they moved half of this camp into that which makes it much more pleasant and healthy here.

July 3. This is Sunday. A bright beautiful morning. Oh, if they will only begin to take some prisoners out of here or parole.

July 11. This has been a day of great excitement in camp. Those raiders have been tried by a Court Martial of our own men. Then at four o'clock the Captain brought them in to the scaffold and said he to us, "You delivered these men to me and I have guarded them until they have had a fair trial by yourselves, and have been sentenced to be hung, and now I deliver them to you again and you do as you please with them, and God bless you all," and then withdrew the guards, leaving them in our hands. One of them attempted to make his escape but was brought back and six of them ascended the scaffold and were hung until dead. The vigilance committee that has been formed here had charge of them.

July 21. In making a register today I found the name of L. D. Sparks, Company "D", 66 Ind. died in the hospital June 7 of diarrhea and of E. S. Kelso, June 13. Sparks' number was 2556.

July 19 (Tuesday). This morning about seven or eight o'clock Walter Fuget died. That makes six that have died out of the little squad that were captured with me, leaving only _____ and there is no knowing how many of us will be left if we stay here much longer.

July 21 (Thursday). No news of interest stirring today. That petition to our Government was read to our Detachment this morning and unanimously adopted by them and signed by the Sergeant of our squad in our name. About eleven o'clock the Rebel Sergeant came in for me to do some writing and I am now at the Commandants headquarters. My business is to keep a register of the name, company, and regiment of those who die here.

July 24 (Sunday). Yesterday and day before I was busy writing. I saw that Isaac Lewis died June 3 by the register. This morning we have glorious news that Atlanta has gone up for good and Johnson badly whipped. If so I hope there may be some prospect of our release from prison. Anxiously we await something more definite.

July 25. We have found some good and clever fellows here give us some vegetables once in a while and a little wheat bread. Oh, how sweet it does taste. This morning we had flack jack and molasses and corn bread for breakfast. I think I can fatten up some out here now and so will stay out as long as possible. I am going to write home and perhaps it will go. I know the folks at home must be very anxious to hear from me.

July 27 (Wednesday). I saw a paper of yesterday stating that Sherman had been defeated at Atlanta but I think the main battle has not yet been fought and when it is we may hear different news. The place is being well fortified now and would be hard to take if our Cavalry should come to release us.

July 28. Went to the creek to bathe early this morning. Then had a good breakfast. I feel much better this morning than I have for some time. Eleven hundred prisoners came in last night from Atlanta.

July 29. Nothing unusual going on. Some prisoners came in this morning and 1000 came in this evening. They search them, take away all their money but one hundred dollars, all butcher and case knives and papers. There are rumors of exchange today, but only rumors.

July 31. News came last evening that our Cavalry were at Macon and had left there about four o'clock. God grant they may come and release us but they have failed yet to come and it is now ten o'clock at night, though they might yet come before the day has passed away.

August 1. I don't feel very well this morning, though did not work much yesterday.

August 2. 700 prisoners came in today from the raid that was made on Macon. They are fine looking fellows and 104 came in from Atlanta. The Rebs report that General Stoneman, forty of his men, are captured and in Macon prison and the whole party are cut off and likely to be captured.

August 4 (Thursday). 169 more prisoners came in today. They belonged to the raiding party who came so near Macon and then went back without even attempting to relieve us, which they could have done easily enough if they had come before the works were done.

August 7. Today an order came to send 21 men to Macon to be exchanged. The officers tell us they think it will be a general exchange and they let those six men who were appointed to carry the petition go with them and we are greatly in hopes this means or some other that the exchange will be kept up until all are exchanged.

August 9. In the list of today and yesterday I see that John Lee died. His disease was diarrhea and scurvy; poor fellow; that makes 7 out of 12, leaving only five that are likely to stand it through. Last night part of the stockade fell down and the troops were called out in double quick time. (This was when Providence Spring burst out of the ground.)

August 14 (Sunday) 114 died. Last night the officers expected a break of the prisoners here, but I don't think any was intended by the prisoners. Thursday one of our company came in, Hogan; he has not been with the company for some time. The weather has been quite calm for three or four days back. The mortality has been very great among the prisoners and last night there were 114 dead. There is now great talk of an exchange.

August 16. Last night some more prisoners got out of the stockade through a tunnel and the dogs are after them now. The office is going to be moved today outside of the fortifications.

August 17. Today I was sent down to the hospital to act as assistant. The reason alleged was that there were too many clerks in the office, but I think it was more spite work of old Martins than anything else, though I have the promise of going back in a day or two. If I do not I shall go into the stockade for I can't bear to see so much misery here as there is among the sick.

August 22. Today I went up to the office and got Lieutenant Davis to let me come to the cook house where I was and I am contented to stay here as long as I can get an abundance to eat and don't have to work very hard.

August 27. Rebel papers state that our government objects to the most reasonable proposition of exchange. If so, I think they are very much to blame. Prisoners deaths average 104 per day or more than 1000 in ten days and sickness increases instead of decreases.

August 28 (Sunday). Nothing to do today but we hope the day is not far distant that will release us from this miserable place before many other good and brave men die than are here now.

September 4. Charlie Allen came over and took dinner with me today. Starrett does not mess with me. I stay all alone keeping batchelors hall. Have quite a nice little rancho with bed table and shelves erected. The news of exchange are very encouraging and news from our army states that we have Atlanta and a corps of infantry on their way, supposedly to release prisoners.

September 5. We will be on the day watch today and hard work it will be for us.

September 6. News came that Sherman had got Hord in a critical position and was now as far this side of Atlanta as Jonesborrough, and right on top of this came orders to send prisoners to Savannah. It is said for exchange. They are getting afraid to leave us here. We had orders to cook 5000 rations of meat tonight.

September 7 (Wednesday). This morning they are issuing rations and preparing to leave. Five detachments go this morning. That will take Elliot Driver. Several of our watch go today.

September 10 (Saturday). Prisoners still going away but very slowly. My squad went yesterday or day before. I only hope that Sherman will make haste and release us before they get us out of his reach. I am very confident that there is no exchange, though the Rebs would like us to believe so.

September 11. Last night I, in company with John Sterrit, Henry Harture, Knowles, Twist, ran away and started for our lines. They broke our parole and then we left. Oh, how I hope to get through. We travelled all night and all day today and have just stopped to rest a bit.

September 14. This evening about three o'clock we were retaken by eighteen men and hounds innumerable. A little boy saw us and reported. They got the hounds after us and we were not aware of it until they were right upon us. There was no chance of escape. We were taken by good fellows, some of whom I shall long remember and I believe if they had known we were prisoners, they would not have followed us.

September 15. We were brought to the village of Lumpkin, the county seat of Stuart County, and lodged in jail, but could not have been treated better. Ladies came to see us, talked to us, and Union ladies, too, and every meal they send us some extra dish and splendid biscuit. One lady, Mary C. Parker, sent us a splendid chicken pot pie and dish of soup today for dinner and some of the best biscuit I ever saw in the Confederacy.

September 17. Yesterday evening they took us out of jail and marched us to Florence, on the river, a distance of sixteen miles. I should have liked to stay at Lumpkin. One of the citizens gave John Sterritt a good new pair of shoes and stockings. This evening we will start for Columbus, go ten miles and stop for the night.

September 18. We marched ten miles yesterday and stopped for the night at an old planters house, but got nothing to eat there, and we only had a little corn meal and very little of that.

September 19. Yesterday we marched thirty miles and arrived in this city of Columbus about eight o'clock in the evening, almost worn out with fatigue, sore in every joint and muscle, and very hungry. We were lodges in the jail, a very fine one, too; had cotton mattress for a bed and, oh, how good I slept.

September 20 (Tuesday). We are here in jail yet I would not mind staying here very much if we have to stay in any prison. The jailer is very kind and we get pretty good rations, though we will be sent to Macon today, no doubt.

September 21. Last night we were put aboard the cars and came to this place via Macon and are quartered in the old camp where our officers used to be. There are none here but two, one Captain and one Lieutenant. There is not much prospect of escape here but I will not fail to improve the first opportunity that offers. I cannot tell how long they will keep us here.

September 22. Last night one hundred men came in who had been up to the front to be exchanged and were refused by General Sherman. Was a hard sight to see them looking as they did and be taken clear to our lines and then sent back to, you may say, death for most of them are sure to die before they can be exchanged.

September 25. We are still here and likely to remain and I am well satisfied as there are not many here, about 200, and it is a very clean and healthy place with tolerable rations of nice meal, meat and salt, with molasses occasionally. Some more prisoners came in from the front who had been up for exchange but sent back. News from the front are very encouraging. Hope a raid will come and release us.

October 18. Today we were given orders to be ready and at four o'clock were put aboard the cars for Camp Lawton. Sterritt, Hartwell, Knowlton, and Twist all stayed. They were outside at work. We arrived at Lawton about twelve o'clock in the night. There was a hole cut in every car as we came down and a good many escaped.

October 19 (Wednesday). This morning we were marched into camp, a nice place and plenty of room, though rations are very short. About a dozen boys who were dressed in grey clothes walked outside the guard and escaped.

October 31. I have not written for some time for want of a pencil. Little did I think I would be a prisoner long enough to use this book on the first of November but still it is so and there is not much prospect of an exchange. There are some sick to be exchanged at Savannah in a day or two and unfortunately in this instance we are well and hearty. Can it be possible that our government will let us stay here another winter? Yet it must be so for I hear that clothing has been sent to us and is now here.

November 1. Important Receipt for Soldiers. In almost all sections of the south there is a large tree called Sweet Gum, its real name is liquid amber. It exudes from wounds on trees, aromatic gum, and bears a burr about an inch diameter perforated with cells like honeycomb. Its leaves are five pointed and resembles those of the maple. The bark is rough and striated and upon young trees very rough and what is termed warty. Take the inside bark, that of an old tree is best, or make a tea of such strength that it will resemble in color and somewhat in taste strong coffee. Let the patient drink from half a pint to four half pints clear or with sugar, cold or hot. Is a sure and safe remedy for every grade of bowel complaint from the most ordinary case of relief up through all stages of diarrhea and cholera morbus, Asiatic cholera in its first stages, if not absolutely incurable. Its great value consists in its leaving the bowels in a healthy condition. A handful of sweet gum bark steeped in a pint of water for half an hour is not an impalatable drink.

November 10. I hear today one thousand sick are to leave here next Saturday enroute to Savannah for exchange. Oh, it is true they were trying to do something to relieve the sufferings of these poor fellows. 103,000 brave boys want help in this _____ at Camp Lawton and many more will die if they are not removed before cold weather, for many of them have no shelter whatever.

November 20. Today is Sunday. We were called into line this morning to pick out the old prisoners, it is said for parole. Oh, I hope this will give me a chance. I am trying hard to get on the sick list that are going today.

November 21 (Monday). Joyful to tell I am on my way, at Savannah, paroled to Yankee Land once more; by paying ten dollars I got out of the stockade and was paroled last night.

November 26 (Saturday). This morning we landed at Annapolis and as the boys stepped on shore they sent up three hearty cheers for the band that saluted us and three times for the Union. Tears of joy glistened in the eye of many a soldier as he recognized some friend ready to welcome him back from that land of sorrow. Oh, how many will look for friends who never will return.

We were paid two months' pay. I received 48 dollars. Orderly Sergeants pay at 24 per month. We are promised furloughs immediately. I am getting quite anxious to see them coming.

PROVIDENCE SPRING

HE, WHO RULES AND OVERRULES IN THE AFFAIRS OF NATIONS AND OF MEN AS WELL, GOD IN HIS PROVIDENCE HAD NOT FORSAKEN US.

There came a great storm. The rain fell in torrents and washed the camp and prison, all cleaned out the reeking filthy swamp and stream, and from the dry and sandy hillside, where there was as little indication of water as there was in the rock which Moses smote in the wilderness, there burst forth clear and pure streams of water, and ever after a constant line of men stood there awaiting their turn to get water. And what is called PROVIDENCE SPRING is a matter of history and is still running clear and pure as ever.

Henry B. Sperry

The Women's Relief Corps have built a marble canopy over this spring upon which are these inscriptions:

"The prisoner's cry of thirst rang out to heaven,
God heard, and with His thunder cleft the earth,
And poured His sweetest waters gushing here."

"A thunderbolt fell with Omnipotent ring,
And opened the fountain, PROVIDENCE SPRING."